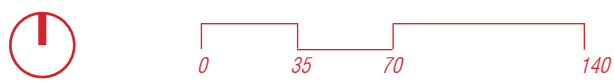


Windows of Change:  
A Transitional Dwelling for Milton Julian



2015

*What a serene retreat this was for Virginia and I, an antique cabin nestled quietly on a farm in the native forest of the North Carolina Piedmont. It was a place where she had said she had everything she loved in one place: the land, the horses, and me. She was so passionate about this horse farm, and it is here that our children learned their love for the land. This is where I want to spend the rest of my days, surrounded by all of the elements that are rich in all of those fond memories. But, although the cabin was adequate for a temporary stay by the two of us, it needs to be expanded and updated to allow for flexibility and ease of my ever changing circumstances.*

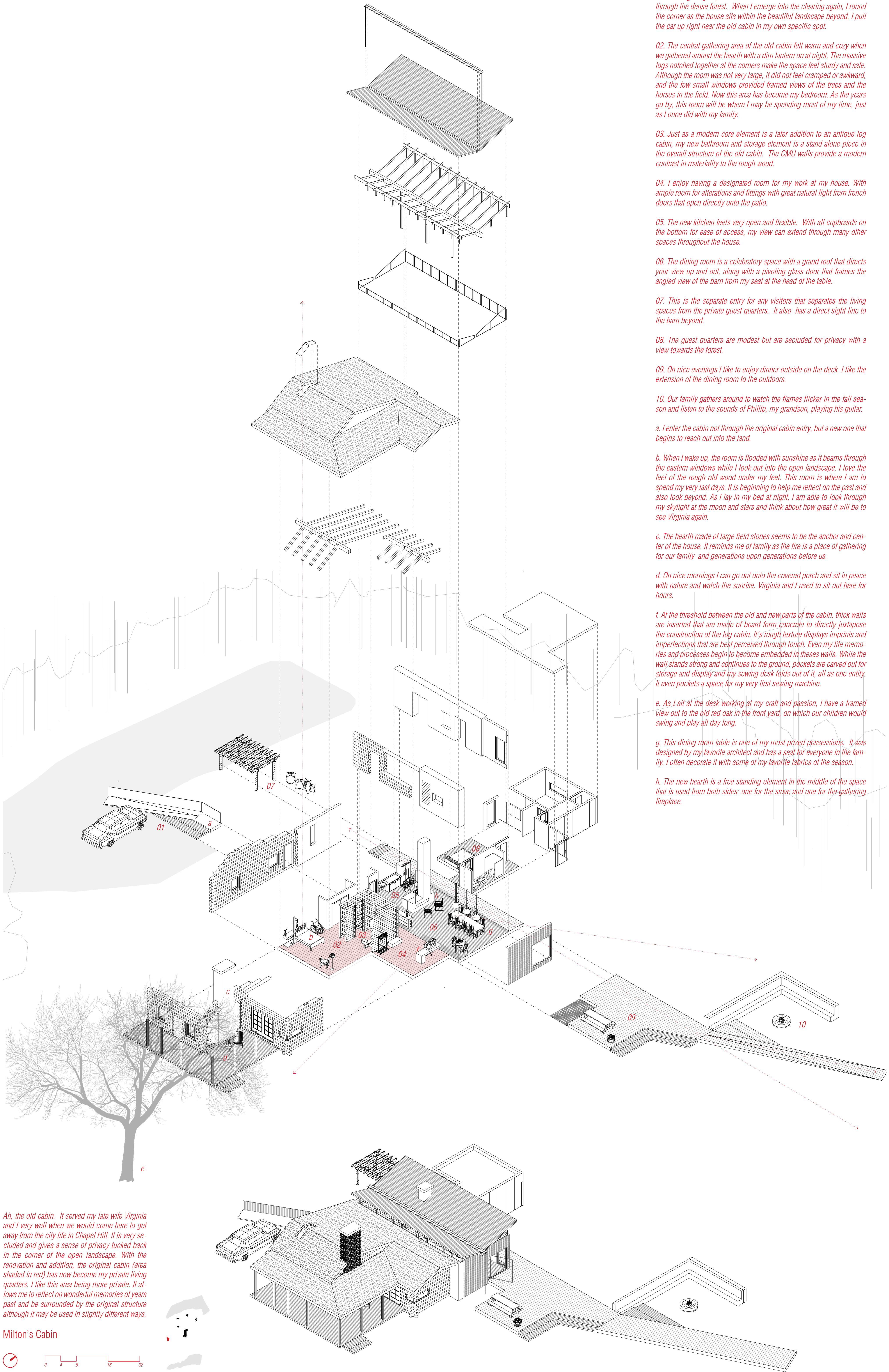
2020

*Without the active horse farm, the old barn seems lifeless. It calls to be revived with life and activity as it once was. It is the central point of this site and its former operations. As my children and grandchildren become extensions of myself and family, and serve as my support community, they gather in the repurposed barn, as an extension of the home. Even beyond my time I imagine each of my children establishing their own cottages on the land, to visit this place with their families to create new memories in a familiar landscape.*

2040

*But who am I kidding? I know my children will get caught up in their own lives in pursuit of their own dreams, just as I once did, and returning to this place may fall by the wayside. But my vision is that whoever comes to occupy this land may still experience it in a way that helps them connect with the land and each other. Because of Virginia's passion for raising horses here, I would love to see this passion be continued in an equestrian camp for children and families of all ages to visit and stay in the cottages. It could be used as a summer camp with counselors and youngsters tent camping in the fields or family weekend retreats, gathering for meals in the barn before a full day with the horses.*





Ah, the old cabin. It served my late wife Virginia and I very well when we would come here to get away from the city life in Chapel Hill. It is very secluded and gives a sense of privacy tucked back in the corner of the open landscape. With the renovation and addition, the original cabin (area shaded in red) has now become my private living quarters. I like this area being more private. It allows me to reflect on wonderful memories of years past and be surrounded by the original structure although it may be used in slightly different ways.

#### Milton's Cabin



01. When I approach the house on the long drive on the edge of the field, I am able to get a glimpse of it. But soon it is taken from my view as I drive through the dense forest. When I emerge into the clearing again, I round the corner as the house sits within the beautiful landscape beyond. I pull the car up right near the old cabin in my own specific spot.

02. The central gathering area of the old cabin felt warm and cozy when we gathered around the hearth with a dim lantern on at night. The massive logs notched together at the corners make the space feel sturdy and safe. Although the room was not very large, it did not feel cramped or awkward, and the few small windows provided framed views of the trees and the horses in the field. Now this area has become my bedroom. As the years go by, this room will be where I may be spending most of my time, just as I once did with my family.

03. Just as a modern core element is a later addition to an antique log cabin, my new bathroom and storage element is a stand alone piece in the overall structure of the old cabin. The CMU walls provide a modern contrast in materiality to the rough wood.

04. I enjoy having a designated room for my work at my house. With ample room for alterations and fittings with great natural light from french doors that open directly onto the patio.

05. The new kitchen feels very open and flexible. With all cupboards on the bottom for ease of access, my view can extend through many other spaces throughout the house.

06. The dining room is a celebratory space with a grand roof that directs your view up and out, along with a pivoting glass door that frames the angled view of the barn from my seat at the head of the table.

07. This is the separate entry for any visitors that separates the living spaces from the private guest quarters. It also has a direct sight line to the barn beyond.

08. The guest quarters are modest but are secluded for privacy with a view towards the forest.

09. On nice evenings I like to enjoy dinner outside on the deck. I like the extension of the dining room to the outdoors.

10. Our family gathers around to watch the flames flicker in the fall season and listen to the sounds of Phillip, my grandson, playing his guitar.

a. I enter the cabin not through the original cabin entry, but a new one that begins to reach out into the land.

b. When I wake up, the room is flooded with sunshine as it beams through the eastern windows while I look out into the open landscape. I love the feel of the rough old wood under my feet. This room is where I am to spend my very last days. It is beginning to help me reflect on the past and also look beyond. As I lay in my bed at night, I am able to look through my skylight at the moon and stars and think about how great it will be to see Virginia again.

c. The hearth made of large field stones seems to be the anchor and center of the house. It reminds me of family as the fire is a place of gathering for our family and generations upon generations before us.

d. On nice mornings I can go out onto the covered porch and sit in peace with nature and watch the sunrise. Virginia and I used to sit out here for hours.

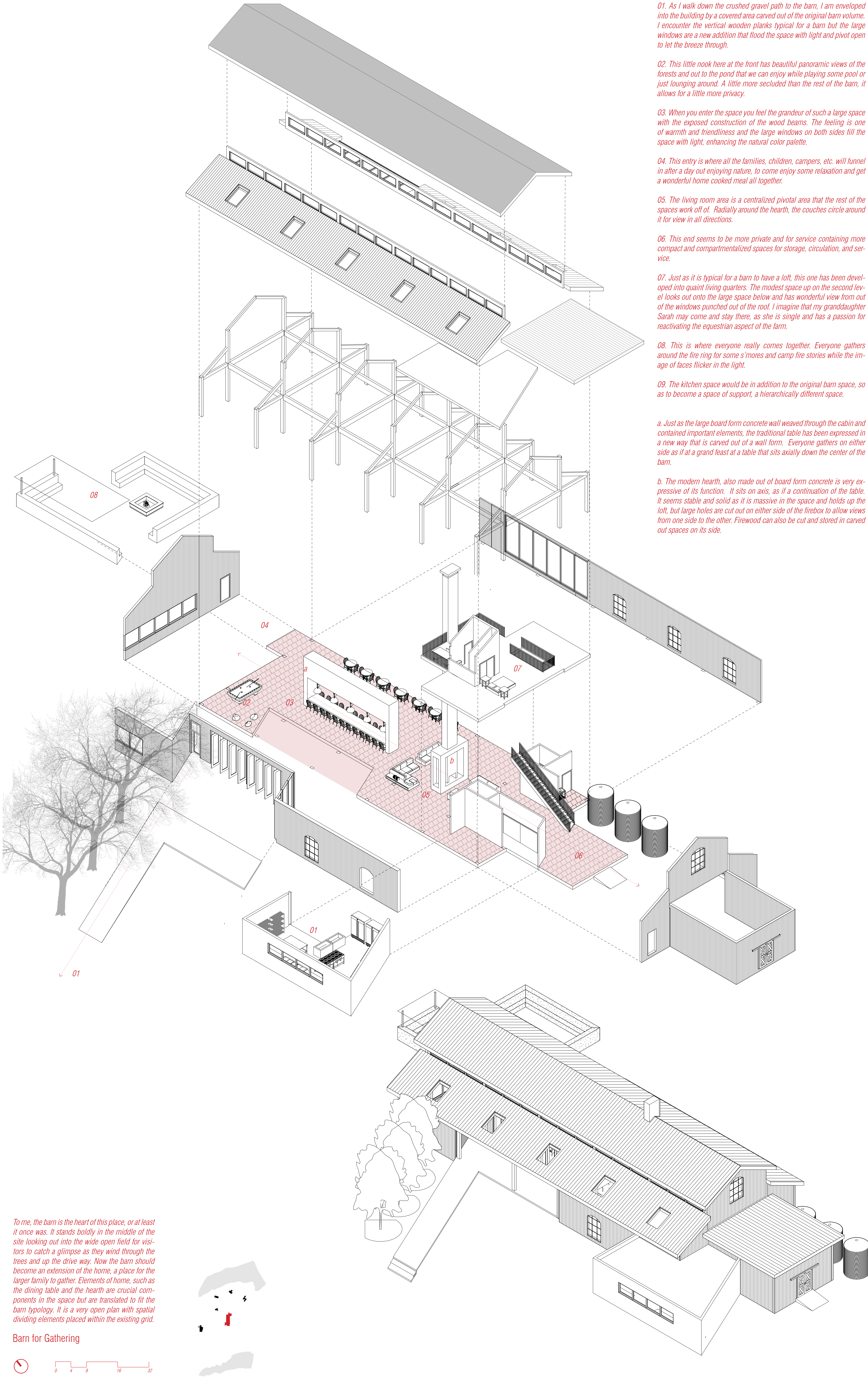
f. At the threshold between the old and new parts of the cabin, thick walls are inserted that are made of board form concrete to directly juxtapose the construction of the log cabin. It's rough texture displays imprints and imperfections that are best perceived through touch. Even my life memories and processes begin to become embedded in these walls. While the wall stands strong and continues to the ground, pockets are carved out for storage and display and my sewing desk folds out of it, all as one entity. It even pockets a space for my very first sewing machine.

e. As I sit at the desk working at my craft and passion, I have a framed view out to the old red oak in the front yard, on which our children would swing and play all day long.

g. This dining room table is one of my most prized possessions. It was designed by my favorite architect and has a seat for everyone in the family. I often decorate it with some of my favorite fabrics of the season.

h. The new hearth is a free standing element in the middle of the space that is used from both sides: one for the stove and one for the gathering fireplace.





01. As I walk down the crushed gravel path to the barn, I am enveloped into the building by a covered area carved out of the original barn volume. I encounter the vertical wooden planks typical for a barn but the large windows are a new addition that flood the space with light and pivot open to let the breeze through.

02. This little nook here at the front has beautiful panoramic views of the forests and out to the pond that we can enjoy while playing some pool or just lounging around. A little more secluded than the rest of the barn, it allows for a little more privacy.

03. When you enter the space you feel the grandeur of such a large space with the exposed construction of the wood beams. The feeling is one of warmth and friendliness and the large windows on both sides fill the space with light, enhancing the natural color palette.

04. This entry is where all the families, children, campers, etc. will funnel in after a day out enjoying nature, to come enjoy some relaxation and get a wonderful home cooked meal all together.

05. The living room area is a centralized pivotal area that the rest of the spaces work off of. Radially around the hearth, the couches circle around it for view in all directions.

06. This end seems to be more private and for service containing more compact and compartmentalized spaces for storage, circulation, and service.

07. Just as it is typical for a barn to have a loft, this one has been developed into quaint living quarters. The modest space up on the second level looks out onto the large space below and has wonderful view from out of the windows punched out of the roof. I imagine that my granddaughter Sarah may come and stay there, as she is single and has a passion for reactivating the equestrian aspect of the farm.

08. This is where everyone really comes together. Everyone gathers around the fire ring for some s'mores and camp fire stories while the image of faces flicker in the light.

09. The kitchen space would be in addition to the original barn space, so as to become a space of support, a hierarchically different space.

a. Just as the large board form concrete wall weaved through the cabin and contained important elements, the traditional table has been expressed in a new way that is carved out of a wall form. Everyone gathers on either side as if at a grand feast at a table that sits axially down the center of the barn.

b. The modern hearth, also made out of board form concrete is very expressive of its function. It sits on axis, as if a continuation of the table. It seems stable and solid as it is massive in the space and holds up the loft, but large holes are cut out on either side of the firebox to allow views from one side to the other. Firewood can also be cut and stored in carved out spaces on its side.

To me, the barn is the heart of this place, or at least it once was. It stands boldly in the middle of the site looking out into the wide open field for visitors to catch a glimpse as they wind through the trees and up the drive way. Now the barn should become an extension of the home, a place for the larger family to gather. Elements of home, such as the dining table and the hearth are crucial components in the space but are translated to fit the barn typology. It is a very open plan with spatial dividing elements placed within the existing grid.

#### Barn for Gathering





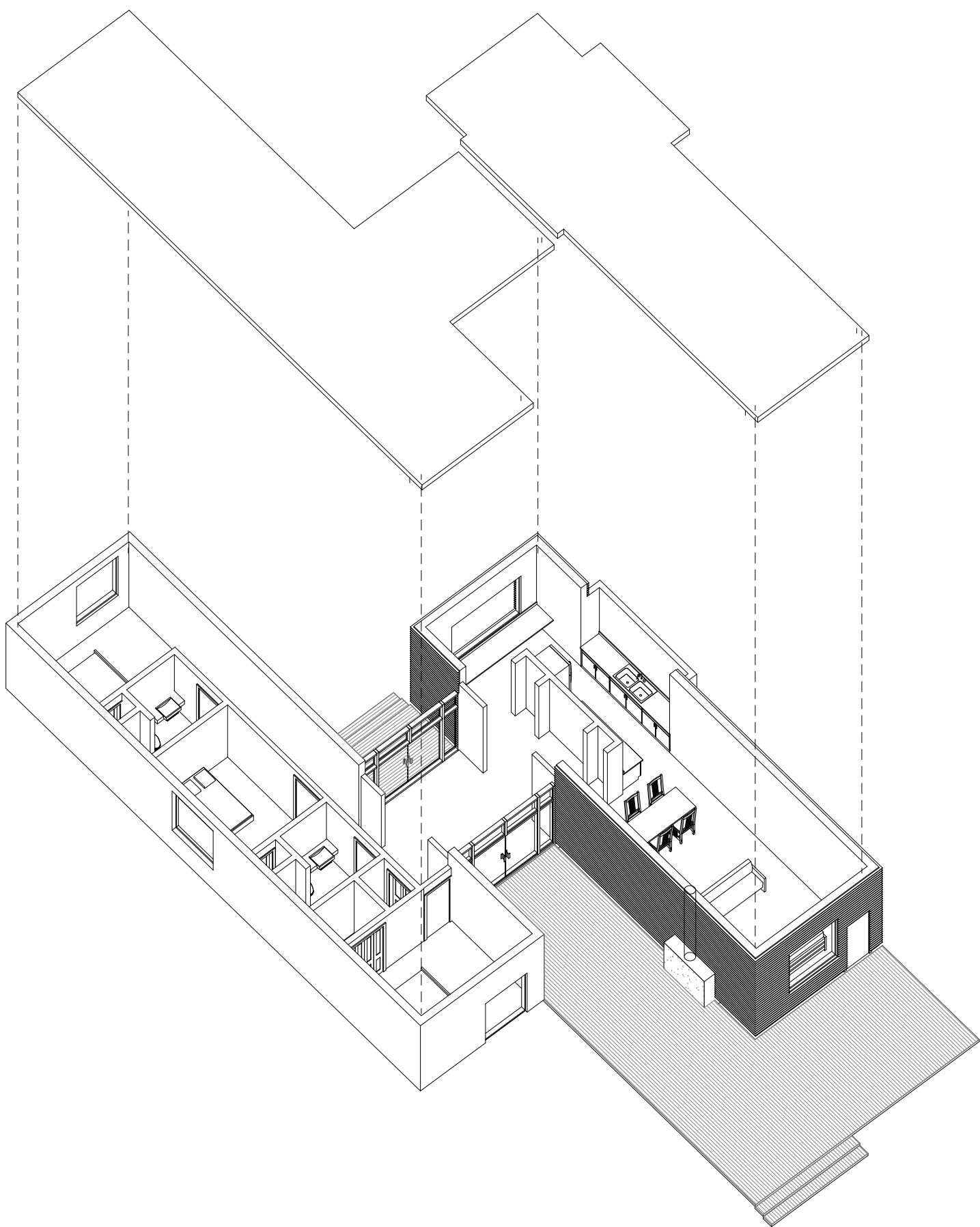
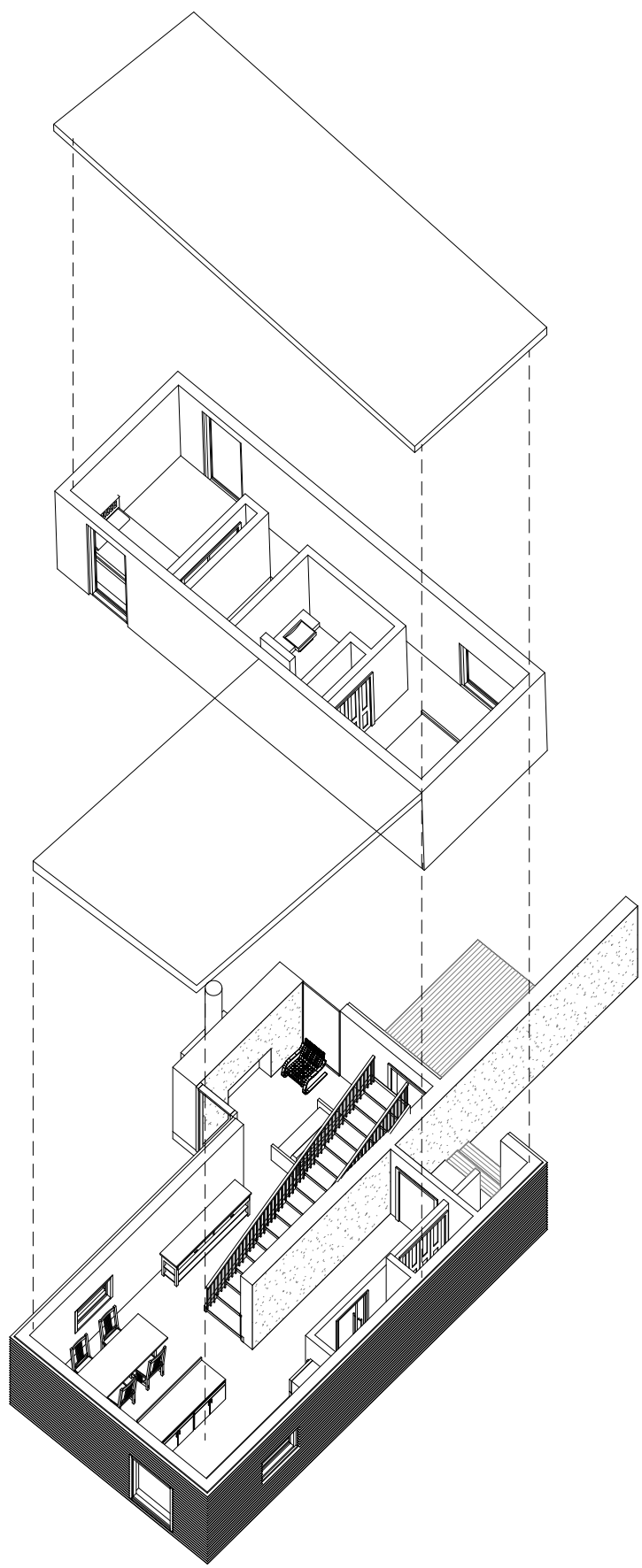
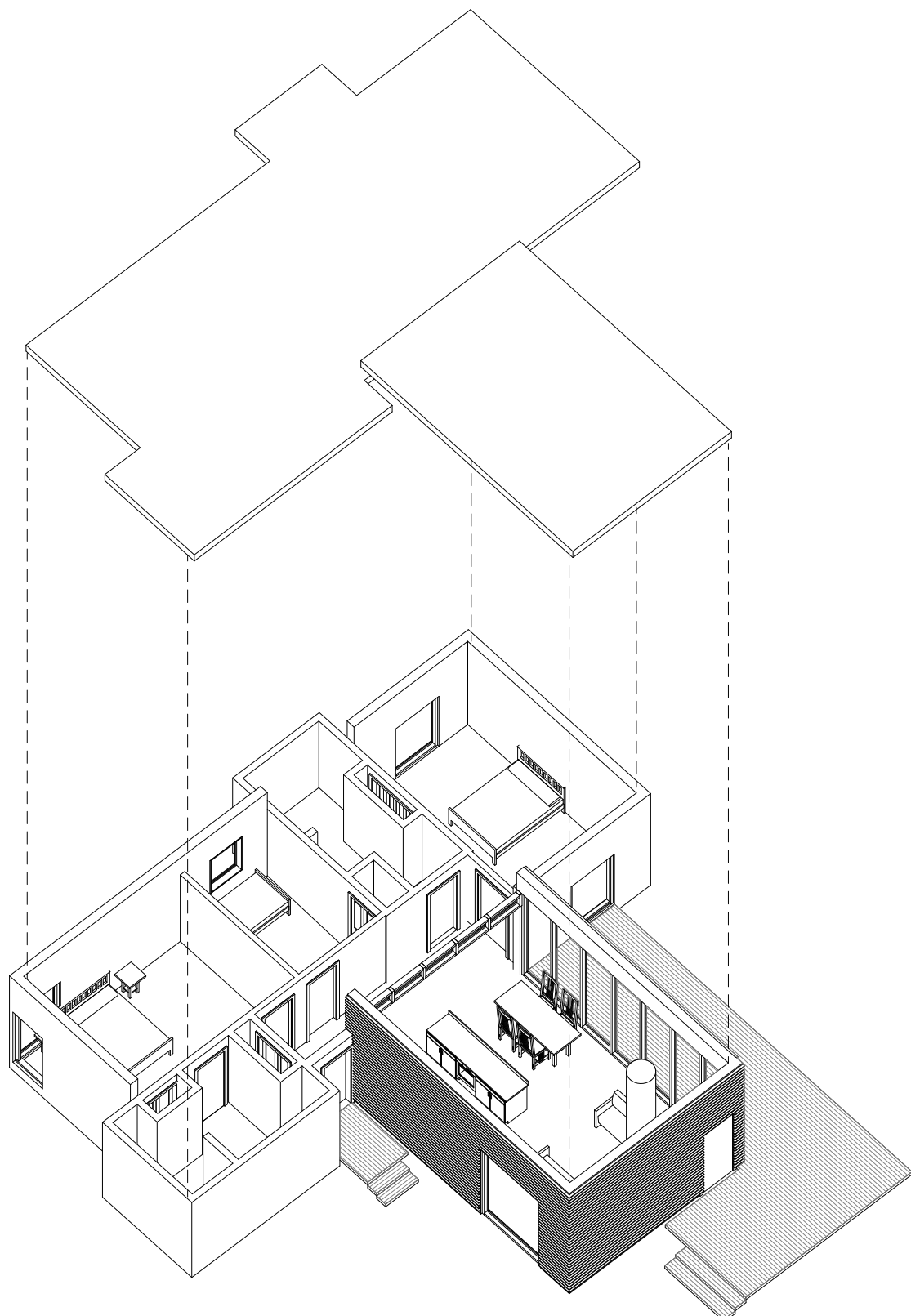
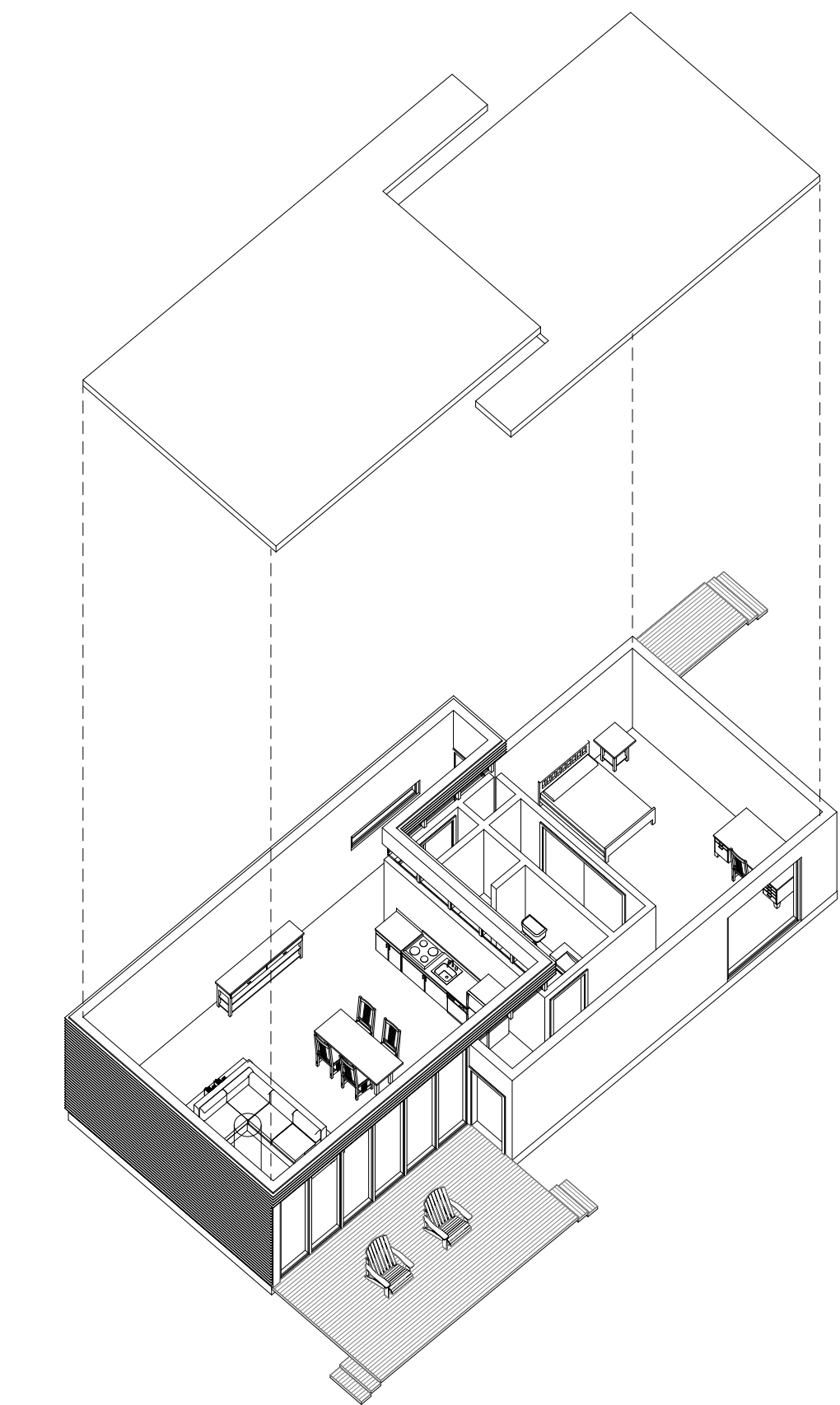
Although each would have its own size and personality to match each of my children, they would all be designed within the same cohesive guidelines. I am a man who appreciates refined designs and I would want no less for the development of my land. The volumes are simple and overlap in different ways to create different outdoor spaces and views. To me, there are three areas to a cabin: the living (more public) zone, the private zone, and the core zone(s). All the living areas need to feel open and free flowing with great views to the outdoors. There will be a higher ceiling to celebrate the living space hierarchy. The exterior cladding would also be a thin planks turned on end to form a horizontal wooden rain screen, a modern, refined interpretation of the cabin walls. The private zone is clad in Corten steel for differentiation. I think it is also fitting for a cabin that may be only temporarily used because of its natural beauty and patina with a small amount of upkeep. Where the areas that these two zones overlap would be the core areas of bathroom, storage, sometimes the kitchen.

**01. Frederick and Susan's One Bedroom Vista**  
My oldest child Frederick and his wife have live in Charlotte for a long time and when they are retired, I know they will be eager to move back to this place just as I did. Their cottage is just for them with simple yet functional spaces. There is a more open living space, with a breathtaking view out over the water, separated by the CMU core elements from the one bedroom. The typical elements of the cabin have been reinterpreted in modern ways. For example, the hearth is a large, yet simple, Corten steel pipe with a hole cut near the bottom for fire wood and a base placed inside.

**02. Randal and Heidi's Weekend Home**  
Although Randal has a busy schedule, being a well know doctor in Raleigh, he will want a place for all of his family to come and gather. It will be a simple house but will be a lively place when they all get together.

**03. Diana and Jim's Getaway**  
I know that my daughter Diana will want something more on the modern side of things: something more linear and contemporary. It will have the wall element to anchor and organize the space and its circulation. She will also want a good view to the water from her bedroom, and with not being right on the water, they will have the private zone raised up on the second floor.

**04. Todd and Jennifer's Family Retreat**  
Being the youngest of my children, Todd and Jennifer are still raising their kids, so I know they will spare no expense to build a home big enough so the whole family can come visit the farm. Their cottage will be located in close proximity to the horse fields and the barn but also sticking far enough out that they can still see the pond as well. They will want a definite divide in the private and public zones and will celebrate it with a celebrated entryway that acts as a joint between the two zones and directs the view upon entry, right out onto the porch and out to the land.



I imagine this land as a place for my children and their families to share for generations. They can build houses to come and visit whenever they want. The cottages could later function for the camp as places for families to rent out, or for counselors as their home base, surrounded by the tent-camping children. They radiated around a central zone that is an open landscape with a few trees but also open up to the beautiful pond view.

Family Cottages

